



“A Golden Retriever Can Change Your Life!”™

Golden GRRROWL

A registered non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization

February 2023

Romie

by Diana Witherspoon

I was heartbroken after losing our first Golden, Skye, and didn't think I was ready for another Golden yet. When I was ready, though, I wanted to adopt a senior dog. Meanwhile, I soothed my soul by walking dogs at GRRR. I did foster a Yellow Lab for a few months, and had a hard time releasing him, even though he was going to a good family.

A few months later, GRRR's Mary Kenton asked if I could foster a Golden puppy—just for the weekend. A couple had turned him in at 14 weeks because they said their two small children were allergic. “No way will I get a puppy,” I replied. And “no more fostering...well, okay...happy to help.” We took Romie home to foster, and that was that! Romie (originally Romeo) stayed and became a family member eight years ago.

He was a handful, as most puppies are. But lots of training and love made him grow up into the sweetest, most well behaved, loving family member one could ever want.

My previous Golden was a certified therapy dog, so when Romie was ready, I certified him and volunteered with Boulder Community Hospital for pet therapy visits. About three or four years ago, BCH opened the Della Cava in-patient behavioral

health center. They treat people experiencing mental health issues and require an in-patient stay. I knew Romie would be just perfect for those who are struggling, love dogs, and need a smile. He is just the best ambassador for GRRR and love that one can imagine. The staff needs these visits too, so we visit all three floors and walk over to the nursing station in the ER as well. Romie loves his job because he gets lots of petting and lots of treats. He brings so much love to staff and patients!

Our most memorable interactions involve those who are crying or are really extra sad but want a dog visit. Seeing the change in their demeanor is incredible. On one visit, an adolescent boy and his mother were sitting in the lobby area and both were looking down and not speaking or connecting at all. I asked if they wanted a dog visit. As soon as they met Romie and interacted with him, they both excitedly told us stories about their dog and happier times involving their dog. By the time we finished our visit, they had found common ground and something fun to talk about.

A Picture is Worth a Thousand “Words”

On a recent visit, one of the patients was both deaf and mute. We only needed Romie to communicate. It was truly beautiful to see her stroke him for quite a while and show me in her way that she loved him and that he is smart. I gave her one of his business cards with his picture on it and she lit up like a Christmas tree. It was a treasure! She clutched it to her face, looking at it with a huge smile, and went back into her room to sit down and look at his picture.

It's not only the patients whose spirits rise when Romie visits. The staff love seeing him too, and he helps relieve their stress. We hear, “You made my day!” after every visit. It's a tough job showing up for treats and petting, and Romie loves every minute! I love it too, and enjoy seeing the joy that he brings.

Romie brings love to staff too

Continued on next page



A "Dog's Life"—Not!

Romie is a most joyful Golden with a very good life. He goes on two adventures a week with Boulder Doggie Adventures. They take him on mountain adventures for several hours with his "pack," four other dogs he loves running with. He waits by the door for the car to arrive, goes crazy when his "adventure leader" shows up, and runs to greet his friends already in the car.

His leader, Dagmar, is also our pet sitter when we travel. Romie loves her dearly and her dog, Puma, is one of his best friends. Dagmar is also an artist and a phenomenal photographer. After each of Romie's outings, we get a rundown of the fun with amazing photos. It is such a joy to see how happy he is on these adventures. Romie looks sporty in an orange vest that he and his Doggie Adventures family wear during hunting season. He comes home wet and muddy—perfect!

In addition to travels with us to Crested Butte with its cooler air, water, and lots of sniffs, Romie has been to Arizona, Mexico, and California, where he loved to frolic with other dogs in the ocean. We wonder if he was bred as a bird dog because he looks to the sky and chases birds and airplanes. One place he doesn't care for is the desert. During those visits he seemed to ask, "Where's the grass? Where's the woods? It's too hot!" He even went on strike when we tried to hike with him in those dry areas. He clearly thought there was nothing appealing about cactus and dirt.

The truth is that every day with Romie is precious and enjoyed to the max. We are so grateful to GRRR for Romie's love and for the work they do in making sure these beautiful spirits get loving homes. I love honoring GRRR's commitment by sharing the love and joy we get from our beloved Romie! 🐾

Romie ready to work!



Romie on outdoor adventures with buddies; photo by Dagmar Fehlau

Romie enjoying a hike with Rick and Diana



Volunteer Spotlight

by Roberta Miller
Adoption Coordinator



I started volunteering at GRRR a little over 10 years ago. I was at the VIP dog walking orientation and about halfway through, Mary Kenton started bringing the most beautiful Golden Retriever puppies out of the house and into the meet-and-greet yard to get some sunshine and playtime. I fell in love with these amazing little pups! When they were old enough to go to their new homes, I was so fortunate to adopt one of the puppies—my first Golden ever, Gracie. Gracie's sweet mom, Aspen, was a breeder surrender, and these puppies were the first litter to be born at Phoebe's Place. So very special! Gracie is my spoiled princess, and the most stubborn dog I have ever been around—but her attitude and silliness is what makes her so great!

I volunteered on the VIP Team for the first few years. It was so special to spend time with the dogs coming in, walking and playing with them, and getting to know each one's personality. And then...so exciting as they each got adopted, and we knew they were going to great new homes!

Eventually I started helping with the adoptions, which is what I am so lucky to be doing now. As applications come through, they are reviewed in detail and phone interviews are completed. If a family qualifies and is a potential good fit for a dog who is ready for placement, the family is invited to GRRR for a meet-and-greet. If they have other family dogs, they also bring them to make sure everyone gets along. The interaction is watched closely—not only with the dogs, but each family member needs to be on board and be happy and excited for the opportunity to bring one of these wonderful GRRR dogs home to be a part of their family. Once we all agree that it's a good match, we go into the office to sign an adoption agreement, review medical records, make sure each dog is micro chipped, go over type of food and feeding schedules, and get the dog ready with a new leash and collar (and goody bag, with a new blanket and toy). Then we send these wonderful, sweet dogs to a home where they will be loved and cared for, be a part of a family who truly knows how special they are, and have the best life they were meant to have.



All dogs love Roberta!

My Crew


Each dog who comes through GRRR has their own special story. Whether it's an owner/breeder release, puppy mill rescue, or stray, each dog deserves to be a part of a loving family. My second Golden, Ruby, came to GRRR from New Mexico. The breeder surrendered her at 5 months old because she had a heart murmur and he didn't think he could sell her. I had talked to a few different families about adopting her, and for whatever reason I was having a hard time finding a family who was willing to take on the risk of a dog with a heart condition. Now I know the reason why I was having a hard time: it was because she was meant to be with me. Her heart murmur is mild and she has never needed to be on any medication. She saw a cardiologist for annual echocardiograms the first few years of her life, but she's doing amazingly well. At 8 years old, she still has the energy of a young Golden. She is such a strong leader and watches over her sister (Gracie) and brothers (Clyde and Teddy). She grooms them, she teaches them to play, and she makes sure everyone gets along. She is so smart and so amazing.

Then there is Clyde, my third Golden, who I was just going to foster, but I failed big time! Clyde was born at a puppy mill in Missouri. He was almost five years old when GRRR got him at an auction. He was a very large Golden, weighing 118 pounds, and was terrified of the world and all the people in it. He was afraid of everything except other dogs. He would always look for places to hide, and his favorite place to hide was under Mary's bed at Phoebe's Place, except only his head would fit. He was sure if he couldn't see you, it was a good hiding place. I took him home, thinking that being around my two Golden girls, he could learn from them how to trust, and that the world wasn't such a bad and scary place after all. It worked! It took some time, but eventually he lost weight and is now at a healthy 80 pounds. We had to encourage him to go outside (he was afraid of the dark and was sure we were going to leave him outside), and we even had to coax him to go from one room to another. Now he loves going for walks, loves going for car rides, loves going to Phoebe's Place for special events, loves lounging on the couch, and he knows my bed is the "safe space" when those darn fireworks or thunderstorms make all that crazy loud noise. He is a big lovebug and puts his head in my lap for love and attention all the time. He loves to be brushed and pushes his sisters out of the way for more brush time. I still look at him with amazement and am so thankful that GRRR was able to rescue this big, sweet boy. The difference in the terrified, frantic Golden who was rescued four years ago, and the wonderful, amazing, beautiful, loving Golden who is part of a family who loves and adores him, is what GRRR is all about.

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Volunteer Spotlight Continued

My most recent adoption was another scared mill dog. Teddy is another big Golden boy who came from a breeder in Missouri. Being a mill rescue, his biggest fear was walking on leash. As soon as a leash was attached to his collar, he would fall to the ground and just lie there, limp as can be, and would not budge. At GRRR, we tried and encouraged him to walk on leash, but he was having none of it. After a few months, I offered to take him home to hang out with my pack and hopefully learn to trust and know he wasn't going to be hurt, and that walks could be a fun thing. At my house our routine is to go for a nice, long neighborhood walk every morning. After a week and a half of being left behind because he wouldn't walk on leash, he finally let me attach the leash, and was the bravest boy! He walked alongside his three Golden siblings and we walked two miles. Ever since then he is the first one ready to go! He fit in so amazingly well with our family, and he just had to stay.

I am so blessed and privileged to be a part of GRRR and help find homes for many of these special dogs. Some are harder than others to find the right home for, but each one is so worthy of being able to be loved and cared for and belong to a family. Happy endings are what it's all about. 



Gracie, Ruby, Clyde, and Teddy

New Program to Help Shy Dogs - FAST

by Jeannie Miller

Those of you who were at our 2022 Gala last June heard me talk about our work rescuing former breeding dogs. I mentioned that we would be launching a dedicated team to work with the fearful and shy dogs that come to GRRR either from breeders or owner surrenders. These dogs need specialized and focused attention to help them get ready to be adopted. Each dog is different, so learning what works best for each of them is a key to their future success.

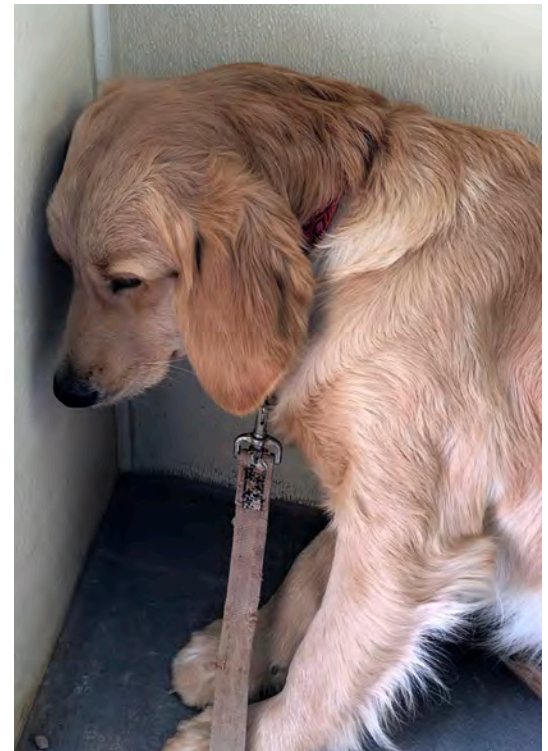
We are very happy to announce the launch of FAST, which stands for Fearful and Shy (dog) Team. FAST is an all-volunteer team selected from our VIP team. Laura Cunningham is the team leader. She will work to develop the team and coordinate with Mary Kenton (Director of Animal Care) and Roberta Miller (Adoption Coordinator) to monitor each dog's progress. The team held its orientation meeting on January 15 at Phoebe's Place and got right to work.

Interested in learning more or being considered to join FAST? Please contact:

Laura Cunningham --lolo34dogs@yahoo.com

Jeannie Miller - jeanniebeer@gmail.com

Francie Rakiec - Francie.Rakiec@goldenrescue.com



Recent Rescues

Dear GRRR:

Riley (formerly Colt) is doing well. It took a while to overcome her fear and neglect as a breeder girl. Patience and love are the keys. She's the perfect addition to my family. I am so thankful GRRR paired me with the perfect dog.

Riley is a former breeder girl and was extremely fearful. At first, she frequently cowered and rarely opened her eyes as if to avoid a negative interaction. Riley would not eat, take treats, go outside or respond to commands.

We discovered Riley loves car rides and used the rides and a ton of love to overcome her fear. It worked. We were patient and celebrated each tiny accomplishment.

Riley's been a part of our family for two months. She responds to commands, has the run of the house without accidents or incidents, and holds her head high while on walks and running in the yard. Her sweet cuddly personality is a delight and her goofy behavior is starting to show. She's approaching family and friends, and we recently started socializing with other dogs. Our next steps are to learn to play with toys and to retrieve.

We would like to encourage anyone who adopts a breeder girl. It can be difficult at times and very sad when you attempt to understand the neglect or abuse these sweet girls endure. Don't despair. Your breeder girl will return the time and love you invest over and over.

Luanne Petricich



Dear GRR:

We adopted Chloe almost a year ago from GRRR!

She has been a fun dog! She loves her walks, hiking, and her big sis, Izzy! She is constantly on bunny, squirrel, and bird patrol and really wishes she could just run and fetch instead of just look. She loves our cats also. Every time one of them goes outside, she feels she has to go out also. The only thing she doesn't like is getting groomed, but hopefully that will change eventually.

Tracey Gabel



Dear GRRR:

Annie is now almost 11 months old and has been with us since April 2022 when she was 8 weeks old. She is an affectionate girl who loves every person and dog she meets. We love how expressive she is with her "voice" and the "side eyes" she gives us. She and our orange tabby cat wrestle daily and have the occasional cuddle session (although she is a bit rambunctious for the cat's taste).

Annie has been such a joyful addition to our family and makes me laugh constantly (except when she eats goose poop, but we are working on that). Thank you.

Beth Risdon



Recent Rescues

Hello GRRR,

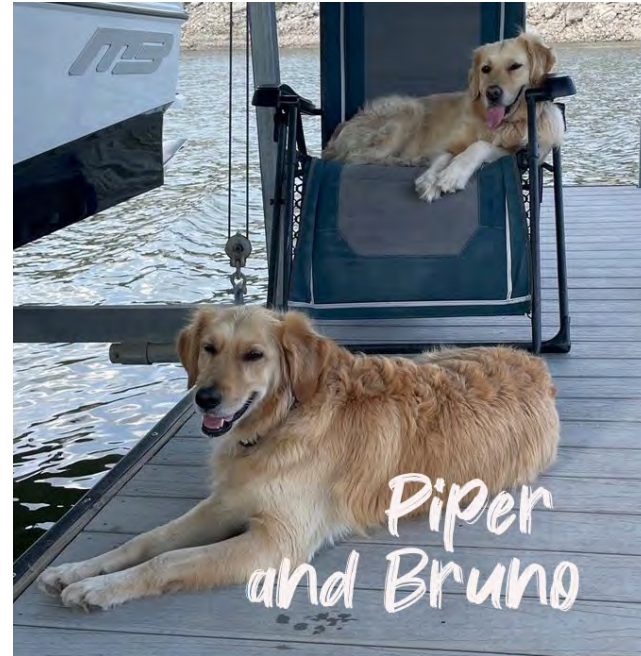
We have now had Bruno three years and Piper for five-plus years. Both our Turkey Dogs are LOVING the good life in Colorado (with occasional trips to Texas, where they enjoy even more variety, i.e., geese chasing and swimming.)

Bruno was an easy adoption. He is a tiny little guy and no one in Turkey wanted to adopt him. He did not know he was about to be thrown into a forest to fend for himself; he came to us at 9 months old – literally “smiling.” He has not stopped smiling since. He loves the outdoors, loves his meals, and he also loves to snuggle and give hugs. He is one of the most personable, loving dogs we have ever had. Every day I tell him he is my best friend – because he is.

Piper also came to us from Turkey, and she was more of a project; she had been bred and left to fend in the streets of Istanbul and ended up in a crowded shelter until she found her way to GRRR. She had never been in a house, never been potty trained, never been on a walk, and had complete distrust of the world. Her transition came over time, and she really came out of her shell when we adopted Bruno. He set an example that people, walks, and houses are good things. Piper is living the life and as you can see from this picture, she likes chairs. She loves couches, lounge chairs, and beds, and as soon as anyone gets out of their chair Piper jumps up and takes “her” chair. She has forgotten her life of foraging on the streets of Istanbul, and she thrives on luxury. Just last week, Piper the street dog was snooping around while I was upstairs with Bruno. We heard a loud crash and watchdog Bruno alerted us to what we thought was an Amazon delivery. Turns out Piper had opened the pantry door with her nose, jumped up to the top shelf, and pulled down the fresh pack of Nubz. She was having a heyday until she was busted! Piper is truly a Cinderella story. (Piper also has a best friend – my husband, Craig.)

I am so grateful for the amazing organization that GRRR is and everything GRRR does to support man’s best friend.

Shelly Stokes



Hi GRRR:

I wanted to update you and Mary Kenton and Roberta Miller on our sweet Jake (formerly Howard). I know Mary was extremely close to Howard as he was “attached to her ankle” (Mary’s words) when we adopted him. Howard is a beautiful English Cream puppy mill dog that we were honored and blessed to be entrusted with, and what a blessing he has been! He’s having the time of his life on our one-acre property in Grand Junction. He loves to play in the back yard with his brother, Bosco (also a rescue), and the two of them are best buddies.

Jake is brave and courageous and so willing to learn. He has made quick progress, but I’m still journaling his new discoveries and big steps as he continues to trust us and learn about our routines and processes. He will finally come into a room with the TV on – we don’t watch it often, but he’s finally figured out the TV won’t hurt him (this took months!). Jake quickly figured out the doggie doors and nighttime sleeping routine and has always been a good eater, but still requires his “special bowl” as other bowls seem to scare him. He loves his “double-decker” dog bed and sleeps “hard” after a long day of play and exercise. He’s such a sweet boy and we thank God for him daily, even hourly. We are so lucky to be able to provide Jake a fun and safe place for as long as he’s here on this precious earth. As always, thank you for all you do for these precious fur babies. Please pass on to Mary that we are taking great care of her Howard!

With love and gratitude,

Brenda Bott



Hello GRRR:

Dixie came to live with us about one year ago and she's settled in perfectly. She loves toys, and has the sweetest demeanor, always showing us her love. Our three Golden Retrievers are a goofy pack! Thanks for allowing us to make her a part of our family.

Loriane Maves



Duke, Mac, and Dixie

Hello GRRR:

- We adopted Gregory about 9 months ago. He is doing great. He makes friends with every person and dog he meets. He loves his daily hikes. He is really settling in.
- Thanks, Rob and Susan



Gregory

Hello GRRR:

What an incredible first month this has been with Cooper (formerly known as Jenny). Thank you for the opportunity to share with the GRRR Nation how Cooper is doing here in her new home with her two new sisters. She's doing incredibly!

Where do I begin? Well, maybe I should let her tell you "Her Story" rather than me trying to translate:

I'm not sure why but I was in a strange place. I was all alone, I was anxious, I was scared and I was unsure as to why I wasn't at home with my family. I am a mother and I am a provider...that is all I have ever known. And now, I am all alone. Alone without my family.



Cooper, Izzy and Daisy

Everything is so new to me. Who are all these strange humans and who are all these loud and sometimes obnoxious fellow Golden Retrievers!? All I have ever known is being a mother. All I have ever known is nurturing my puppies. I miss my family, I miss my home and I miss my babies! I have never felt more afraid or alone....

On November 27th, my life changed forever. On November 27th, I was adopted into a new family and I have started a new chapter in my life. I will always miss my first family and I will always miss being a mother and a provider, but I am looking forward to the next chapter in my life with my two new sisters and family!

Respectfully,

Peter Friesema

Good morning GRRR Team:

Gladys has become quite comfortable in her Colorado Springs home. The first weeks were a bit challenging; she seemed quite focused on how to get out of the fenced back yard. Now here since early September, she is content with her surroundings. We visit Bear Creek Dog Park every day.

Gladys is consistent with coming when called, does well with other dogs, and starts nudging me at my work-from-home desk every morning at about the same time, anticipating our outing to the dog park. She has done well with children in my son's family and with their dog.

Gladys really rescued me with companionship and getting me out more often. Thanks for working with me to adopt her.

Karl McAfee



Good afternoon, GRRR!

Just wanted to send GRRR a thank-you note on Jazzi's 1-year 'Gotcha Day.' She is doing great; in fact, she just finished "helping" me with a fall yard project. She had so much to learn when she arrived and has done a great job of learning to be a dog, learning to be a pet, and living in a home with people who love her. Mill dogs really are different! She immediately told me she preferred her bed in a different location, so new location it is!

She recently took a day trip. I think she enjoyed it - when she got back to her home! She was a bit confused while we were gone, but was wagging her tail as usual when she saw us returning to our neighborhood. She loves every being she meets, two- and four-legged alike, and has several dog pals, most of them Golden Retrievers.

Jazzi continues to work hard at learning appropriate dog behavior, but has made tremendous progress and I couldn't be happier with her. I pray she's happy with me also. Thank you, thank you for all your efforts in rescuing her and uniting us!

Dara Miller and Jazzi

Hello GRRR:

We are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to adopt Mack (formerly Wyatt) last January. He has brought so much love and silliness to our home. He is truly the sweetest pup we have had, and it's been a joy to watch his confidence level grow since we brought him home.

He spent the spring/summer/fall at the ballpark watching his "boys" play baseball, hiking, and meeting new friends. He enjoys regular playdates with his neighbor/best friend, Stella, who was instrumental in bringing him out of his shell when we first brought him home. We are so appreciative of GRRR and can't say enough about our experience. Thank you!

Kristie and Kris Damgaard



Recent Rescues

Hi GRRR:

Just wanted you to know that we dearly love Max. He's sooooo good and sooooo smart. He dove into the toy box and took out all the toys and always carries one in his mouth when he goes outside. Max is a dear boy. Today we went to Starbucks and he got a Puppuchino. I held up the cup and he didn't want it so I put some on my finger. He tested it and loved it, so then he had the whole thing. He met some neighbors yesterday and just leaned up against them; so cute.

Max fit into our family and absolutely loves being in the back yard. He runs out there ever day and gets lots of exercise. He's getting better being on a leash. All the smells are new to him and he wants to take off. Luckily he doesn't. He is very energetic for a 10 year old, it's great to see. We love Max. Thank you, GRRR.

Thank you so much for introducing us to him.

Chuck and Carolyn Horcher



Dear GRRR:

Maxx joined our family at the end of September and quickly endeared himself to us. The reason for the second "x" in the spelling of his name became readily apparent early on. Maxx is just "extra" – extra affectionate, extra energetic, extra strong, extra big personality. He makes us laugh, especially when he gets what we refer to as "the zoomies," where he darts around the house at the speed of light, chasing his tail, jumping on the bed, speeding down the stairs like a steam engine, etc. (imagine the Looney Tunes cartoon "Tasmanian Devil"). He has brought so much joy into our lives, and we're so grateful to GRRR for letting us adopt him.

Joanne Slater



Newsletter Submissions

We all love reading about your Golden Retrievers and we'd like to hear from you! If you'd like to submit a letter AND photo of your GRRR rescue, email the letter and digital photo to debbie.davis@goldenrescue.com. Deadline for the May 2023 issue is April 6, 2023. Thanks!

Recent Stats

January 1 – December 31, 2022

Number of Dogs Placed: 329

\$ Spent on Medical Needs: \$110,613

Hello GRRR:

Ted, adopted October 2021, and Mable, adopted January 2022 are the best dogs and best friends. They love to go on walks, play with toys, and snuggle. Thank you, GRRR! We love what you do!

Hulsey Gilchrist



Max



Mable



Chance

Good morning GRRR:

On December 26, Chance celebrated his 4th birthday complete with a birthday hat, treats and toys. You can see “pups on the sofa” are indeed allowed in our house.

We adopted Chance from you when he was just 8 weeks old; one of a litter you had available. He and our adopted cat “Tucker” are best buds and rule our household. We are contemplating adopting another Golden. I check your website all the time. Puppies are a lot of work but we are thinking this might be better for Chance so he can still feel like king of the household (actually that’s more the cat) but still have a play buddy.

Debbie Born

2023 GRRR Events

Goldens in Golden

Saturday, Feb 4, 11am - 1pm
Washington Ave, Golden (weather permitting)

GRRR Annual Membership Meeting

Sunday, March 5 @ 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Arvada Library, 7525 W 57th Ave

Spring Fling

Saturday, May 20 @ 12:00 - 3:00 pm
Phoebe’s Place

2024 Calendar Photo Contest begins in May.
Start snapping now for the calendar contest!
Deadline will be sometime in July.

GRRR Gala

Saturday, June 24 @ 7:00 - 10:00 pm
Tivoli Denver
Virtual Silent Auction is June 17-June 24

Senior Play Day for Dogs 8 and over

Sunday, August 20 @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Phoebe’s Place

Annual Rescue Reunion Picnic

Sunday, September 10 @ 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Phoebe’s Place

Halloween Party

Saturday, October 21 @ 11:00 pm
Phoebe’s Place



Stay tuned for more info on all of these events.

Golden Angel: Ripp

by Jeannie Miller

Hi GRRR Peeps! I am Ivy and this is my brother Jackson. We wanted to tell you about our buddy Ripp, who came to stay with us sometimes at our house (Francie & Wade's doggie B&B).

You might remember me from the cover of the newsletter from April of 2020. I was the star of that article, which is what I should be! I am doing well and love my forever home with Francie and Wade. I love my brothers, Bruce and Moby, and especially my new little brother Jackson. He plays with me. We have a blast!

We don't mind having new dogs come to stay with us sometimes, especially if they will play with us. Before Christmas, a wonderful lady who rescues cats in Texas called Mary Kenton because she had seen a dark red Golden boy at the shelter. He was in pretty rough shape after being found as a stray. She decided that he should be named Ripp. I was surprised that no one was claiming him because I think he is very handsome. The shelter was going to euthanize him. Mary said GRRR would take him and so he was transported to Colorado with Highway Hounds.

Our Mom and Dad went to meet the van when it arrived. Ripp was very malnourished, matted, and had fleas and ticks. They brought him home to our house. He was pretty stinky and growled at Jackson and me when we were checking him out. I think he thought we were going to gang up on him. We can be bratty, but we are not mean. Mom let us out in the yard together and then he figured out that we just want to play. And play we do!



Ivy & Jackson



He got to see Dr. Carpenter right away. No one was surprised that he was heartworm positive. Dr. Carpenter said that he needed to gain 15-20 pounds. I wish someone would tell me that! Ripp also has a limp and a weak hind end, so x-rays were done of all of his legs. He has elbow dysplasia on his right front leg. He isn't a good candidate for surgery so he will have to take pills to help with pain for his whole life.

Jackson and I decided that Ripp is a great playmate. Mom calls us the Three Stooges because we don't stop being silly when we are around each other. Ripp loves to snuggle on the couch and get his lovin' too. I get a little jealous when my Dad pays too much attention to him because I am the princess! I was hoping that Ripp could stay with us forever, but he must have the heartworm treatment. He has to stay quiet and can't play for 3 or 4 months while that happens. I don't think Mom trusts us not to play with each other and she is probably right. I shouldn't make promises I can't keep! Jackson and I will miss him so much. But we know that Mom will bring us more fun friends to play with.

The other day, Ripp was adopted by a family who will give him a wonderful and forever home, and is ready to see him through his treatments. He deserves a happy life like Jackson and I have. I was a Golden Angel too and I am so thankful that the Golden Angel Fund allows GRRR to open their arms to any dog that needs us. Even those like Ripp and me, who require expensive medical treatments. Thank you for donating. ❤️

Handsome Ripp



Ripp cuddling with Wade

Please Donate to GRRR's Golden Angel Fund!

Many GRRR dogs need extra medical attention Your donation will help GRRR dogs with treatments for cancer, hip dysplasia, heartworm, and more. Please send donations to: GRRR, 15350 W. 72nd Avenue, Arvada, CO 80007 (make your check payable to GRRR with "Golden Angel Fund" in the memo portion). Or donate on-line at <http://goldenrescue.com/golden-angel-fund>. Thank you!

Golden Angel update 🐾

Matilda, now Marlo



by Leslie Kinne

Our Marlo truly is a Golden Angel in every way. In fact, Angel is the name we call her most often. She gives us kisses when we ask, and snuggles on top of us as if she were a tiny lap dog.

Marlo is best friends with our other rescue dog, (Captain Jack) Sparrow. They are quite a dynamic duo. You can find them chasing each other in the backyard, playing tug-of-war, or snuggling together in their favorite spot—which is always near one of us in the home.

We named her Marlo because “mar” means water, and if you know Golden Retrievers, you know you cannot keep them out of it! Any body of water, including snow, is her happy place.

Marlo’s surgery for incontinence was a great success! She no longer leaks, and for this, you can see the wonderful pride written all over her angelic face. Hooray! We are eternally grateful for Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies, and everyone who donated to the Golden Angel Fund. Thank you! 💙

Matilda & Captain Jack Sparrow

Naming Tribute 💬

JuneBug, by Liz Newman

JuneBug was my daughter Jennifer’s life and went everywhere with her since she was in 11th grade. Junebug was ill for 5 years but Jennifer never gave up on her. She took her on many final “trips” thinking it was her last days, but JuneBug always rallied back. They were that example of the dog and owner starting to take on a resemblance, so cute!



JuneBug

Interested in a Naming Tribute?

With your donation of \$100 you may request a Naming Tribute so that one of GRRR’s rescued Golden Retrievers will be named after your dog or loved one. You will honor the memory of your loved one, and your donation will help us give a rescued dog a new start to a better life. More info on Naming Tributes: <https://www.goldenrescue.com/naming-tribute/>

President's Report


by Judi Servoss,
President

2023 promises to continue to be busy and exciting for GRRR. After seeing a record number of dogs last year—329—there's no sign of a slowdown. This is from an increase in relinquishments as well as the active pursuit of former breeding dogs who desperately need loving forever homes.

As Francie notes in her column, we'll also have construction starting on a much-needed addition and renovation of Phoebe's Place. This is very exciting, but potentially difficult for Mary Kenton, the rest of our staff, and the pups in our care. During this process there may be some temporary changes in access times and procedures, but we will do our best to keep everyone informed. A Board team has been set up to monitor and assist with every aspect of the process.

We plan to hold our regular Phoebe's Place events, and will let you know of any changes. We do love to see you and your dogs!

In Memory - Charley Dinkey

A bit of sad news to pass along. Charley Dinkey passed away in mid-January. GRRR's previous President, Pat Dinkey, and her husband Charley were instrumental in helping GRRR through the early days at Phoebe's Place. Charley largely worked behind the scenes and helped with many things at PP. He and his company, Hampden Press, were among the earliest sponsors of GRRR's Gala, starting with the first one in 2011. Pat and Charley also became very involved with ending puppy mills and the sale of animals in store fronts. We are so sorry for the loss of Charley. He will be missed. 



Charley & Pat Dinkey



**We hope you can attend GRRR's Annual Meeting:
Sunday, March 5, 2023, 1-3 p.m. at The Arvada Library, 7525 W. 57th Ave., Arvada
This is a chance to meet and greet other members and the GRRR Board.
We'll review 2022 results and plans for 2023. Sorry, no dogs allowed.**



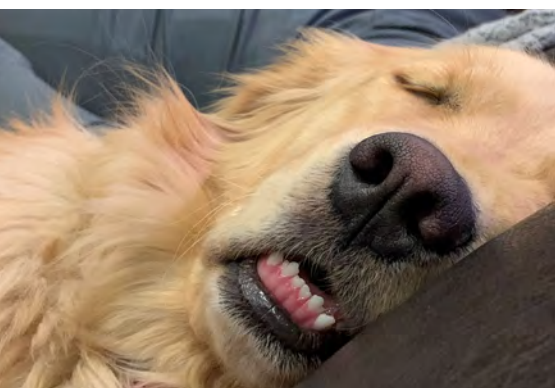
2022 Year in Review

by Francie Rakiec
Executive Director


2022 was truly a year unlike any other and in a VERY good way. We raised a record amount of money at both the Gala and Colorado Gives Day. It was a huge shock and a true testament to all the amazing supporters we have. Our Gala was also in-person for the first time in a few years. It was so wonderful to all get together for a good meal and some amazing auction items. Our dog intake was up from 2021 (263) to 329 in 2022. A large percentage of that number were former breeder dogs. We are thankful that we can help save these dogs from a life of perpetual breeding and get them into safe and loving homes.

And what's in store for 2023...

We have a lot of exciting things in store for 2023 as well. As most of you know, Mitchell Graye and Pam Hollister have made another very generous donation to provide a much-needed addition and some renovations to the existing home at Phoebe's Place. Our goal with this new space is to provide an assistant caregiver to help Mary Kenton with the many responsibilities she has when caring for all of the dogs that come into GRRR. We will also have a new garage added so that we can keep our transport van and Mary's van protected from the sometimes harsh weather Colorado hands to us. The Graye/Hollister name may ring a bell for many of you. They were key players in GRRR obtaining our current property. Phoebe's Place is even named after their beloved Golden, Phoebe.



In addition, we received another generous grant from the Robert B. Sturm Foundation, nother familiar name, to fence and turf the gravel area between the two sheds. We would like to make this space more usable and inviting for humans and dogs alike. We will also be adding pergolas to the space for additional shade. This Foundation also provided the funds for us to add our vet/isolation room in 2019. We are so very fortunate to have such generous donors!

I imagine by this time next year Phoebe's Place will look completely different than it does now, but our mission will always be the same. We strive to "Never say no to a Golden in need." 

In Memory

Darby by Debbie Stratton

Darby passed away on December 16, 2022. It wasn't unexpected, but still heartbreaking. She was a great combination of sweet and feisty. I like feisty.

I adopted Darby from GRRR in 2016. She came from a commercial breeder in Kansas. She landed in the perfect home: quiet and non-chaotic (she was a bit of an introvert), and knew love for the first time. She had an awesome big brother, Rio, to show her how to climb stairs, how to get in the car to go to the park for walks, and that going into the kitchen usually meant getting food! She became my biggest food hound.

I'd like to share some of my favorite things about Darby so you can see how awesome she was.


- Darby gave me so much joy when she looked at me with love in her big brown eyes. She really communicated with those eyes, staring at me any time she wanted something, like "her" place on the couch when Bodhi nabbed it.
- She loved car rides I think even more than walks. "Driving Miss Darby" was probably the highlight of her day (besides eating). She sat behind me, and when we got close to home, I opened her window. She stuck her head out...not a lot, she didn't hang out the window...but just enough that I could see her cute little face in my rear view window. My heart melted when I saw that.
- She would sit next to me, very close, when I was eating and was always underfoot in the kitchen. I had to put a towel on the floor next to her to catch the drool! She looked up at me with her big beautiful deep brown eyes, wanting some of what I was eating. That look was effective and she always got some bites of my food.
- And oh, that girl was feisty. Darby always let me know when it was time to quit work and eat dinner. She barked and sometimes pranced around with squeaky toys. Dinnertime was 4:30 but sometime she started at 3:30. The time change was a challenge...then she started at 2:30!
- Darby was a great little sister to Rio, and after he passed two years ago, I adopted Bodhi, and she became an awesome big sister. I'm so proud of how she welcomed and taught him so many things. She taught him how to get into the car, to go up and down stairs, and to bark in the back yard - not that I wanted her to teach him that!
- The first night I adopted Bodhi, he was sleeping out in the hall when we went to bed. Darby started barking but Bodhi didn't come in the bedroom, so she went out and said "hey dude, we sleep in here." He followed and all was quiet for the night.
- Darby also brought in an (almost) dead rabbit at 5 am through the dog door. Luckily it didn't run around the room, and quickly died. I was on crutches at the time so I used a crutch to push the rabbit into a waste basket and put it outside in case it was just stunned. It wasn't. I don't think I should count that as one of my favorite things about her, but it's kinda funny now.
- Darby also made the cutest noises...grunts, snores, purrs (not sure that's the right term for a dog but it fits). I loved cuddling with her and hearing those sweet noises. She was my cuddliest, softest dog ever, and didn't mind being hugged. Oh, how I miss the cuddling. And I really miss those noises.

Bodhi is sad too, and we're spending more time together, taking longer walks, and we even got invited to three dinner parties during Christmas (he likes parties). He'll get a little brother or sister someday, and then he will be the big brother.

I'm sure many of you have loved, and unfortunately lost, a dog or beloved pet. It's hard. It wouldn't be so hard if we didn't love them so much.

But all the days that we love them are worth the heartache. Hug your pets, tell them you love them, play, go on adventures, take lots of pictures, and learn to live in the moment with them. That's the greatest gift that my dogs taught me.

I am grateful to have loved Darby, and to have been loved by her, for six years. She is Miss March in the Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies 2023 calendar, with a double rainbow behind her.

She was the gold at the end of my rainbow. 



Darby

Donations in Memory or Honor

- Pauline Atkinson, in memory of Sweet Lucy.
- Jeffrey Bailie, with fond memories of Lincoln Bailie. We miss you. You were our good boy. :)
- Ian Bailey, dedicated to Joe Kohlback
- Joy Barrett, in memory of Early.
- Kay Black in memory of Vickie P Dykstra and her fur family Buddy (1st), Penny (rescue), Skylar (rescue), Buddy (2nd adopted).
- Brenda Bott, in memory of Luke Bott.
- Suzie Brown, in memory of Cooper - the goodest boy.
- Laura Boyka, dedicated to Sponge Cake.
- Stephaie Brennan, dedicated to Melanie Young.
- Marcia Burns, dedicated to Barb & Bob Crok
- Carol Carr, in memory of Charlie Rocket, our sweet GRRR foster failure of the best kind!
- Suzanne Carter, in memory of Jessy Golden Bear who brought Romeo to me.
- Jane Chadwick, in memory of Toni Stovall.
- Jim Cole, in memory of Jema.
- James Collier, in honor of Garner & Wally and Emily.
- Jim Cole, in memory of Jema.
- Camille Colt, in memory of Mr. Galileo.
- Jennifer Conley, in honor of Tucker (GRRR Rescue 2021).
- Jeanne Cooper, in memory of Barney Doodles and Moe Moe who passed away this year (both GRRR rescues and in my family for 12+ years). I miss them dearly.
- Sue Crase, in memory of all my dogs.
- Barbara Crook, in honor of all of our Golden angels.
- Mary Cucarola, in memory of Joy.
- Peter Culshaw, in memory of Dr. Bruce Parker.
- Dee Delay, in honor of Diamond.
- Lynda Delbaugh, in honor of Abbey and Paisley
- David DiManna, in memory of Auggie.
- Marta and Steve Dubay, in memory of Emmy, Rockie, and Bridger, our wonderful GRRR dogs.
- Dana Duthie, in memory of Emma, Zoe, & Molly, and in honor of Tucker.
- Lauri Ekberg, in memory of Misty.
- Mary Lou Fehr, in memory of Ellie, my sweet Golden Retriever.
- Lynn Filoreto, oh behalf of Charlie.
- Melissa Fogler, in memory of Charlie.
- Julie Foster, in honor of our beautiful golden rescue, Allie, who has filled our hearts with love.
- Courtney Fox, in memory of Toni Stovall.
- Julie Franks, in memory of Toni Stovall.
- Roberta Garrett, in honor of all the Goldens we have loved before.
- Alice Gilbertson, in honor of Argyle, Olivia, and Aubree.
- Kate Goble, in honor of Nova and Juneau, adopted from GRRR.
- Cheryl Hand, in memory of Maximus Gunner Hand.
- Cecilia Hogue, in memory of Max.
- Tricia Hoyt, in memory of Zadie.
- Meg Hulme, in honor of Dr. Roger Liehr. "Dr. Liehr, Thank you for all you did to help all our kids over the years! Gerry, Meg, Emmitt, Potter & Midge."
- Ginny Johnson, in memory of Laird H Johnson.
- Kirsten Johnson, dedicated to rescuing the sweet gal.
- Megan Jones, in honor of Jonas Family Golden Retrievers.
- Sarah Kavanah, in memory of Munson, our Golden Angel.
- Martha M Kelley, in Memory of my Goldens at the Bridge: Charley, Katie, Sam, Danny & Brady
- Sean Kennedy, dedicated to Grace Kelly Kennedy
- Ron & Karen Kershner, on behalf of Jada, who we recently adopted.
- William Koehler, in memory of Kathy Gail Miller.
- Judith Koren, in memory of Daisy and Abbey
- Barbara Kreisman, in honor of Kili.
- John Lee, in memory of Annie.
- Carrie Leypoldt, on behalf of Cooper Leypoldt.
- Lindsay Lyda, in honor of Oliver Kay, my first golden.
- Tracy Martin, in memory of Tahoe.
- Dan Matras, in honor of Snoopy, Cajun, Simon, Bosley, Bear & Molly.
- Charles McElwain, in memory of Kali, Annie, Carson, Molly and Lilly, our beloved Goldens
- Sukie McMaster, in honor of Lady Constantina 'Tina'
- Stacie McWilliams, in memory of Palei.
- Elizabeth Merkle, in memory of Susan Lambert.
- Anne H Meyn, in honor of Nancy and Carl Hane.
- Debra Miles, in honor of Terri Sides.
- Margaret Miller, to all the dedicated staff and volunteers.
- Mike Morrow, in memory of Connor and Midas.
- David Mullen, in memory of Bailly and Sadie dogs.
- Becky Myers, in memory of Tally.
- Judy Myers, in honor of Bette Bushell & Stan Armstrong.
- Liz Newman, in memory of JuneBug on behalf of Jennifer Turner-Westerman.
- Suzanne Noble, in memory of Molly the Golden Retriever.
- Linda O'Neal, in memory of my beautiful Leroy - a GRRR alum.
- Wendy Perdue, in memory of Ken Fehr.
- Robin Reed, in memory of my Jake - the best dog ever.
- Sue Rura, in honor of Shalako, Harley, Ripplee, and Tycho.
- Roxanne Sabin and Ellen Rabinowitz, in memory of Sophia Maria, Deb Dawson, Meredith Sabin, and Our Sweet Hope.
- Sherri Sanders, in honor of Zack and Andrea Sanders.
- John Sadwith, dedicated to Michael Sadwith
- Patti and Chip Schneider, in memory of Chanel, Sundance, and Sookie.
- Suzy Schulman, in memory of Peyton Ingalls.
- Kristi Selfridge, in memory of Lacey Guido.
- Brianna Shannon, in honor of Brinklee and Tia.
- Christopher Shields, on behalf of Teddy St. Louis.
- Joanne Slater, in honor of Maxx - adopted September 2022. We love him!
- Robert Smith, in honor of our 14-year-old Maui.
- Jill and Howard Snyder, in honor of Josh, Maddie, Abbie, Roxi, Miller & Helly (formally Brandy Wine).
- Nora Stack, dedicated to Duncan.
- Ellen Staton, in memory of Sonny, Tucker, and Tasha.
- Alison Stern, in memory of Cooper Lepping.
- Margo Stewart, in memory of Steve Stewart.
- Gail Stokowski, in memory of Pepper and Jude and Lily, and to honor all the Golden Angels including Zoey.
- Debbie Stratton, in memory of Darby and in honor of Bodhi.
- Robin Strelow, in memory of Bryce, my very first Golden.
- Tanya and Pete Sullivan, in honor of Izzy.
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- DIane Turner, dedicated to Barbara and Bob Crook.
- Bree Wabiszczewicz, dedicated to Draker Pup.
- Megan Walsh, in memory of Cotswold Walsh.
- John Walters, in memory of John Walters and Kate McKenna.
- Debra Walz, in memory of Clover.
- Joseph Welch, dedicated to Sullivan.
- Debra Welsh, on behalf of Penny, thank you forsaving her and so many other precious pooches.
- Kelly Weisberg, Happy Birthday to Jorie Smith.
- Patty Whitelock, in honor of Goldie's care.
- Sherri Wilson, in memory of Sir Dalton, a GRRR Golden Angel and the sweetest boy. We miss him.
- Yvette Woodworth, dedicated to All Goldens!
- Richard Wolf, in memory of Mandy.
- Steve & Laura Zlogar, dedicated to Lloyd.

We regret any errors or omissions.

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"A Golden Retriever Can Change Your Life!"®

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“A Golden Retriever Can Change Your Life!”[®]

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Golden Retriever Rescue of the Rockies is dedicated to rescue, placement and public awareness, to ensure that Golden Retrievers are adopted by people who are able to provide a safe, loving home.

Applications to adopt a Golden are available on our website www.goldenrescue.com

Please accept my Membership in GRRR (includes quarterly newsletter plus free attendance at all events and reunions)

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Interested in volunteering? Go to www.goldenrescue.com to fill out the volunteer application. Thanks!

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